



The work of the OSCB is driven through a series of subgroups. The people on these groups are from organisations which deliver services to children in Oxfordshire. Each subgroup has a specific role:

Child Exploitation – makes sure that we work together well to protect children from exploitation. The group has led on a new child exploitation ‘screening tool’ to help workers tell if they need to refer a child for more help. They have set up ‘network meetings’ so that workers can discuss those children they are most worried about and plan how best to support them together. They have set up new ‘panel meetings’ so that they can do their best to help those children most at risk of going missing or being exploited. They use information to find out what the patterns and trends are across Oxfordshire so that they can work out where to target resources.

Performance, Audit and Quality Assurance – looks at how well our local services are supporting those children and families most in need and lets us know if there any safeguarding concerns that we need to deal with. They look at data and intelligence. The group has undertaken three multi agency safeguarding audits, ten audits of agency safeguarding practice as well as large-scale assessments of local services. They have escalated issues on keeping children safe in school, on how well the most vulnerable children are doing at school, on the organisation of case conferences (meetings where we are planning how best to support the most vulnerable) and on waiting times for those children wanting mental health support.

Case Review and Governance – sits at the heart of our learning and improvement work. The group undertakes rapid reviews of serious incident notifications, oversees and supervises all case reviews (now called child safeguarding practice reviews - CSPRs) and identifies actions and learning from serious incidents. The group has led on six serious case reviews / CSPRs and four partnership reviews. They have developed guides on (1) Physical Abuse (2) Parental Vulnerability (3) key points for strengthening working together in Oxfordshire poster and (4) Safeguarding Conversations / Supervision poster guides (5) most frequent learning points for practitioners in Oxfordshire.

Training – keeps the wheels turning of an extensive programme of safeguarding courses for workers and volunteers in Oxfordshire. 5,121 practitioners from across Oxfordshire attended 342 safeguarding courses. 4801 delegates completed online safeguarding training. Learning was passed on to others through two learning events, three workshops and the Annual Conference. The group supported events on topics such as gang violence, better joint- agency understanding of vulnerable children’s lives through ‘chronologies’ and how workers can better understand what life feels like for the children they help.



Safeguarding in Education – helps identify, and take action on, safeguarding concerns for staff in pre-schools, schools, colleges and other education providers. The group has focused on the themes of knife crime, safety programmes on offer for schools in the county, the police system for notifying schools of domestic abuse incidents involving children and relationships and sex education. The group also analyses Ofsted safeguarding reports and school audit work. It has produced a termly newsletter for schools.

Procedures – makes sure that there is one source of up-to-date guidance and procedures on all key safeguarding issues via the OSCB website for all practitioners and managers working together across the children's workforce. Colleagues can refer to the [online manual](#) to see updates, which include working together on how we work together to make decisions and reach a common view when we disagree on what decision to take.

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) – ensures local oversight of all child deaths in the area and ensures that lessons are learnt and action taken as appropriate to the circumstances and any themes are identified and addressed. The group has ensured that all changes from Working Together 2018 have been adopted. Key changes include ensuring that all deaths have an individual multiagency review and that all data from Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire is shared with the National Child Mortality Database. The introduction of a key worker for all cases has enabled targeted support for all families to be coordinated. In addition Oxfordshire CDOP has joined with Buckingham CDOP and the Pan Berkshire CDOP for 2 themed meetings on sepsis and on cancer related deaths which has enabled key learning to be shared across the region and form part of the CDOP annual report.

Disabled Children – checks that the safeguarding needs of disabled children are addressed and high-quality services are delivered to this group. The group has improved the areas in the 'Childcare and Development checklist' that are important to consider for disabled children; updated Safeguarding Disabled Children training material and shared learning following serious incidents relating to disabled children.

The Health Advisory Group – brings together health professionals to work together to keep children stay safe when coming into contact with e.g. A& E departments, doctors' surgeries, medical appointments, baby clinics. Over the last year they have covered training; guidelines for health professionals and how to support children who come in touch with health services with specific safeguarding concerns e.g. female genital mutilation or child exploitation. They have escalated issues of concern to partners e.g. lack of beds in hospital for children with serious mental health problems and secure places for teenagers to stay when they have a complex range of concerns and cannot stay in hospital any longer.

Neglect Task and Finish Group – keeps a focus on the most persistent problem we face in the safeguarding partnership – neglect of children. Over the last year they



have updated the resources for workers to use with families to help improve parenting and make sure that children grow up in a safe, caring home. This includes guidance for workers when they are visiting families' homes as well as a request that all those workers helping a family share a 'chronology or time-line'. This time-line helps workers get a big picture on what is happening in the child's life e.g. having breakfast and getting to school on time, being at school every day or getting to all doctors' appointments.

Housing Forum – draws together the many housing providers in Oxfordshire to help them connect with each other and with organisations in our safeguarding partnership. This group is getting to grips with issues such as training; making good referrals and developing better contacts across organisations so they feel well equipped to keep children safe.